

A Visit

It's just the beginning...  
Three years in....  
She knows my name.  
She opens the door but does not lock it behind her.  
She tries to find a place for the new picture I gave her.  
She said she'd move things later.  
I said let's do it now.  
It's perfect she says.  
She asks if we want a drink.  
We say later.  
We try to chat.. there's little conversation.  
She asks if we want a drink.  
We say later.  
She asks if we want a drink.  
We say yes.  
She tries to find the glasses.  
She opens the cabinets.  
One after another.  
She finds the right one.  
She gives me a glass.  
She gets me water.  
Her gait is off.  
She walks slowly.  
She's young... only 75.  
We sit at the table.  
What's new I ask.  
Nothing she says.  
Where's your coloring.  
I don't know. I cleaned up.

*Author - Cheryl Kempner*

The family room is spotless.  
I like things organized she says.  
Are you playing cards? Painting?  
Playing tomorrow..good I say.  
I don't know if it's true...  
Do you want to see the pictures from our cruise I say.  
Yes she says.  
Let's slide through the pictures on my phone.. are you bored yet?  
No they are wonderful.  
Did you have a good time.  
Great I said.  
How are you feeling.  
She says I'm good.  
You lost a lot of weight I said.  
Yes she says.  
What do u eat?  
Eggs with... with...  
I said tomatoes, cheese, spinach...  
Give me a minute..  
I say lox? I found it hidden in the side of the refrigerator.  
She says yes, Nova.  
She offers more snacks.  
She takes chocolate.  
Are you allowed to have it?  
She says I can do what I want.  
We sit again.  
We look at more pictures .  
Do you remember when we went to Venice?  
She smiles.  
Did you buy anything she asks.  
Not much I said.  
Some souvenirs.. I had an amazing time though.

*Author - Cheryl Kempner*

She just holds her head in her hands and looks at my pictures. I know  
it's enough.

She tells me they just came back from a trip... there was no trip.

She tells me dad left at 3:00 for cards.

I spoke with him at 530.

They were having dinner.

I know it's enough.

She wants to change and watch tv.

I say maybe we will do this again next Thursday.

She says sure if she has no plans.

I say ok, lock the door.

We kiss goodbye.

Thank you for coming.

Lock the door.

Click